

Leadership Board Minutes
August 12, 2025

Present: Bill McKellar, Donnie Wilkinson, Harry Solomon, Lee Sanders, Kaye Stevens, Rosemary Patterson, Eddie Moore, Preston DeLaune (treasurer)

Guests: Sarah McCurley (taking minutes), Sharon Roy, Becky House, Sandy McKellar (leading devotional), Joe Fowler, George Herbst, Kathy Seal

Bill McKellar called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Sandy McKellar led the devotion, followed by an opening prayer. Bill requested volunteers for remaining devotionals for the year. Lee will take September and Rosemary will take October.

A motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made by Harry Solomon and seconded by Eddie Moore. Motion carried.

Preston reviewed the financial statements. Current operating account balance: \$24,252.35, which is below one month's typical expenses. Additional available funds include: \$22,000 in an uncommitted fund, \$50,000 in other funds, and \$97,000 in the operating cash reserve. All funds, except for the CD, are held at Bonvenu Bank. July giving totaled \$33,997.43, well below the monthly budget of \$58,333.33. Year-to-date, the church has spent \$84,582.18 more than received in revenue (85% of the projected deficit). Expenses have decreased compared to the previous year; however, revenue remains the primary concern. Rosemary inquired about a recent charge from J&J Exterminating.

To proceed with the parsonage sale, a church conference with the District Superintendent is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. A secretary will be needed for the meeting. Sign-in pads will be provided for member attendance. The District Ministry Team has authorized the sale, but the transaction cannot be finalized until after the conference. Inspections and potential repairs will be required before the sale. Announcements will be made both verbally and in writing over the next two Sundays.

Bill reminded everyone of the onboarding event scheduled for Sunday, August 24 from 3-7pm with Jo Cooper. Invitations will be extended to Sunday School representatives and young families. Rosemary volunteered to coordinate food for the event

Bill announces Raegan Meshell as our new church administrator-secretary who started yesterday. Donnie praised her energy and enthusiasm. Sharon noted she provided both secular and ministry résumés. The search for a Facility Director continues, with limited interest so far. Harry suggested sharing the job opening with the congregation

Sharon gives a building maintenance update. HVAC repairs are complete and the invoice has been received. Concerns about bees and wasps were investigated. J&J Exterminating was unable to address the issue. Bee Haven found hives both outside and inside the building; estimate: \$5,600 to remove the bees. Sharon will obtain a cost estimate from J&J for comparison in eradicating the bees. Three window panes have been replaced for under \$500. Burst pipes caused flooding in youth and children's areas. PuroClean handled mitigation; estimate: \$2,000–\$5,000. Baseboards will need replacing. Sharon and Sarah assisted during cleanup. Midyett Room leak has been patched; plans for full repair are ongoing. George suggested contacting Ron Payne for consultation and referrals.

Lee asked Donnie to share what came of his visits to each Sunday School class. After visiting Sunday School classes, Donnie reported: a strong sense of love and connection among members, acknowledgment of past hurts from the previous year, and three key concerns including, church finance, engagement of families (ages 25–55), strengthening connection to the Air Force base. There was an emphasis on the need for targeted outreach. First Friends program was discussed as a potential avenue for deeper integration into church life.

There is a new initiative from the conference called the “NAP” or New Appointment Plan. It includes setting three goals each by: The District Superintendent, The Pastor, and The Leadership Board. Sharon distributed written goals submitted by Donnie and the DS. The leadership board is to now create their three goals. Lee shared that she loves the 5th Sunday celebration and if she were coming into the church she would want to see that more. The goal is to **foster unity across all demographics within the church by creating opportunities for meaningful connection through both worship and social gatherings**. Eddie brought up the financial strain. The goal is to **improve the church's financial sustainability by increasing revenue and reducing expenses, ensuring fiscal responsibility while continuing to support and strengthen the church's ministries and programs**. Bill raised the question of how to best utilize the church building moving forward. The goal is to **assess and improve the use of our church facilities in order to support ministry, increase community engagement, and ensure responsible stewardship of our physical resources**. The next and hardest step is to figure out how to meet these goals.

Kathy inquired about allowing the Shreveport-Bossier Choral Ensemble to use the facility for rehearsals and performances. Bill requested a formal written request. No objections were raised by the Board.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 7:53pm.

